

# **California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990**

## **Programmatic Accomplishments**

### **Fiscal Year 2001-2002**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In June of 1990, the voters of California passed Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, commonly referred to as Proposition 117, or the Mountain Lion Initiative. The Act states, "...There is an urgent need to protect the rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat that supports California's unique and varied wildlife resources."

To assure the preservation of unique habitat, the Act created the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF); required an annual transfer of \$30 million into the Fund until the year 2020; and specified how the monies were to be expended for acquiring, restoring and enhancing habitat necessary to protect wildlife and plant populations, especially deer, mountain lions, rare, endangered, threatened or fully protected species, wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitat.

Specifically, the Act requires that \$4.5 million be appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Of this amount, \$1.5 million shall be expended on projects that are located in the Santa Lucia Mountain Range in Monterey County; \$1.0 million shall be expended for acquisitions in, and adjacent to units of the state park system. The remaining \$2.0 million shall be used for 50 percent matching grants to local agencies for projects meeting requirements of the Act and for the acquisition of wildlife corridors and urban trails, nature interpretative programs and other programs designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas.

The Act also required that \$4.0 million be appropriated to the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC); \$10.0 million to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), until July 1, 1995, after which the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) would be the recipient of these funds; \$500,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC); and the balance of the Fund, or \$11.0 million, to the WCB.

#### **EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS**

To assure critical habitat is acquired, restored and/or enhanced, Section 2786 of the Act specifies that funds are to be expended on (a) the acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands for the protection of deer and mountain lions; (b) the acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (c) the acquisition of habitat for Significant Natural Areas, (d) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wetlands; (e) the acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of aquatic habitat for spawning and rearing of anadromous salmonids and trout resources; and, (f) the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of riparian habitat.

Further complicating the expenditure requirements, the Act requires that over a 24-month period, to the extent practicable, expenditures should be made to achieve the following: (1) that one-third of the total expenditures be made for acquisitions of habitat necessary to protect deer and mountain lions; and the remaining two-thirds of the expenditures shall be made for acquisitions of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species; (2) that \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands, and \$6.0 million be expended on the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic and riparian habitat, and (3) that 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Northern California and 50 percent of the expenditures be made in Southern California.

This report provides a complete listing of projects approved for funding by each of the participating entities during FY 01-02.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

While the expenditures can be summarized into the six major habitat categories, i.e., Section 2786 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), many expenditures qualify for more than one program element or habitat as defined in the Act. For example, \$1.0 million could be expended for purposes of acquiring 50 acres to protect deer and mountain lions as defined in Section 2786 (a). That same 50 acres, however, may provide quality habitat for a rare, threatened or fully protected species, as defined in Section 2786 (b).

Stated differently, natural ecosystems are made up of a multitude of plants, animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc., interacting with the natural elements as a whole system. Consequently, it is to be expected that some habitat protection efforts will contain more than one defined program element. When acquiring or restoring land, a parcel may be classified for a primary habitat value. Since natural areas are rarely monotypic, a second or even third program element may be present and will appropriately be given credit under that program.

Herein lies one of the major difficulties in reporting how funds are expended. To the extent possible, expenditures were reported for an individual and unique habitat that met one of the definitions of Section 2786. However, in several cases, the same funds were reported as expenditures for multiple types of habitat that met more than one of the definitions of how funds could be expended. Because of the identified multiple wildlife benefits, the reporting of funds by specific categories becomes more complicated.

## **HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND EXPENDITURES**

To better understand the accomplishments that were achieved from the expenditure of HCF funds, Table 1 summarizes the type and number of acres protected or restored and the dollars expended to protect, restore or enhance these acres, Table 2 summarizes the expenditures made by each of the participating entities and the purpose for which the expenditures were made, and Table 3 provides a summary of habitat acres protected and restored since 1990.

Table 1

<i>Type of Habitat Protected 2002</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
	<b>Deer and Lion Habitat</b>	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	<b>Significant Natural Areas</b>	<b>Wetland Habitat</b>	<b>Aquatic Habitat</b>	<b>Riparian Habitat</b>	<b>Urban Trails</b>	<b>Habitat Links</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$3,734</b>	<b>\$15,434</b>	<b>\$7,987</b>	<b>\$4,543</b>	<b>\$4,430</b>	<b>\$5,895</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$2,431</b>
<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>37,457</b> <i>1, 4, 5, 8</i>	<b>39,404</b> <i>1, 3, 4, 5, 8</i>	<b>35,974</b> <i>1, 3, 4, , 8</i>	<b>105,784</b> <i>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</i>	<b>80,689</b> <i>1, 4, 5, 7, 8</i>	<b>21,453</b> <i>1, 4, 7</i>	<b>230</b>	<b>34,384</b> <i>1, 4, 5, 8</i>

- 1) SCC: 15 acres involving a biological assessment not included in total.
- 2) SCC: 9,850 acres involving a feasibility study not included in total.
- 3) SCC: 1,800 acres involving a restoration plan not included in total.
- 4) SCC: 6,000 acres involving acquisition of floodplain restoration not included in total.
- 5) SCC: 3,000 acres involving an EIS/EIR not included in total.
- 6) SCC: 11 acres involving to prepare a restoration feasibility study not included in total.
- 7) SCC: 3429 acres involving a review project scope not included in total.
- 8) SCC: 13,000 acres involving a restoration plan not included in total.

Table 2

<i>Habitat Protection by Agency 2001-2002</i>								
<i>\$ in 1,000s</i>								
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Deer and Lion Habitat</b>	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	<b>Significant Natural Areas</b>	<b>Wetland Habitat</b>	<b>Aquatic Habitat</b>	<b>Riparian Habitat</b>	<b>Urban Trails</b>	<b>Habitat Links</b>
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$2,008	\$13,391	\$7,535	\$2,223	\$2,880	\$4,465	\$0	\$1,998
California State Coastal Conservancy	\$233	\$1,143	\$252	\$1,890	\$1,469	\$913	\$0	\$183
Department of Parks and Recreation	\$1,493	\$900	\$200	\$350	\$0	\$377	\$250	\$250
California Tahoe Conservancy	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80	\$80	\$40	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>\$3,734</b>	<b>\$15,434</b>	<b>\$7,987</b>	<b>\$4,543</b>	<b>\$4,430</b>	<b>\$5,895</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$2,431</b>
<i>Acres Protected</i>								
Wildlife Conservation Board	4,563	8,234	5,842	10,483	1,109	2,338	0	1,554
California State Coastal Conservancy	30,000	30,366	30,000	95,181	79,580	18,605	0	32,600
Department of Parks and Recreation	2,894	804	132	120	0	510	230	230
California Tahoe Conservancy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>37,457</b>	<b>39,404</b>	<b>35,974</b>	<b>105,784</b>	<b>80,689</b>	<b>21,453</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>34,384</b>

Table 3

<i>Type of Habitat Protected 1990 to 2002</i>								
\$ in 1,000s								
	Deer and Lion Habitat	Threatened and Endangered Species	Significant Natural Areas	Wetland Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Riparian Habitat	Urban Trails	Habitat Links
<b>Total Allocation</b>	\$63,063	\$116,218	\$44,948	\$58,864	\$32,750	\$54,833	\$82,236	\$53,481
<b>Acres Protected</b>	116,996	116,554	80,912	1,340,439	931,430	98,307	43,474	68,234

As previously mentioned, the Act requires that 50 percent of the funds be expended in Northern California and 50 percent in Southern California, as defined. For FY 01-02, the data reported reflects a total of \$26.3 million expended from the Habitat Conservation Fund. Of this amount, \$20.2 million was expended in Northern California and \$6.1 million was expended in Southern California.

The 01-02 Budget appropriated \$21 million to the WCB. Of this amount, Budget Bill language required that \$642,000 be made available to the Department of Fish and Game. This report only identifies the amount of monies transferred to the Department of Fish and Game; it does not provide an accounting on how these funds were expended with respect to the requirements of the Act.

The Act also states that, "to the extent practicable ... all agencies expending funds should use the services of the California Conservation Corps and local community conservation corps." Of the 67 projects reported, none used the services of the California Conservation Corps or local community conservation corps. This low participation rate could be attributed to the nature of the projects reported. Many projects were planning/development/assessment projects to determine the viability of future restoration or enhancement efforts as opposed to on-the-ground restoration or enhancement projects. As such, the services provided by the California Conservation Corps or local assistance groups may not be appropriate.

Section 2794 requires that any state or local agency that manages lands acquired with funds appropriated from the HCF shall prepare, with full public participation, a management plan for lands acquired. Based upon the reported information, 18 of the 67 projects indicated that a management plan had been prepared. It should be noted, that many reported projects reflect an expansion of an existing public area and/or are included in a project area plan that contains an operational and management element.

To further understand how the funds were expended by each of the participating entities, the following section provides a summary of projects funded in FY 01-02.

## WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Funds Appropriated	\$21,000,000
Funds Allocated	\$18,506,651
Pass-through to Dept. of Fish and Game	\$ 682,600

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Allensworth ER-Exp. 23	Tulare	\$8,000	10
Allensworth ER-Exp. 24	Tulare	\$2,000	15
Camp Cady WA, Exp. 7, Augmentation	San Bernardino	\$4,500	319
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp. 10	Yuba	\$610,000	223
Daugherty Hill WA, Exp. 9	Butte	\$1,388,200	1,331
Eagle Ridge CE	Calaveras	\$10,000	3,009
Fall River WA	Shasta	\$1,170,000	1,158
Holly Springs Ranch	San Diego	\$2,130,000	94
Humboldt Bay WA, Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Unit, Exp. 2	Humboldt	\$75,000	10
Humboldt Bay WA, Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Unit, Exp. 3	Humboldt	\$223,000	25
Humboldt Bay WA, Jacoby Creek/Gannon Slough Unit, Exp. 4	Humboldt	\$240,000	49
Jacoby Creek Forest	Humboldt	\$815,000	319
Jepson Prairie Ecosystem Conservation Area	Solano	\$2,505,000	3,459
Lake Earl WA, Exp. 23	Del Norte	\$154,000	24
Mattole River ER, Exp. 10	Mendocino	\$606,000	40
Merced River Salmon Habitat Protection (Augmentation), Robinson Cattle Co.	Merced	\$179,401	105
Merced River Salmon Habitat Protection, Robinson Cattle Co.	Merced	\$355,000	320
Pitkin Marsh ER	Sonoma	\$283,200	6
Sacramento River Conservation Area, Exp. 4	Glenn	\$2,743,000	454
Sacramento River Conservation Area, Exp. 5	Glenn	\$1,680,000	259
San Jacinto WA, Exp. 20	Riverside	\$1,139,000	922
San Jacinto WA, Exp. 21	Riverside	\$10,000	5
Stone Corral, Exp. 2	Tulare	\$11,000	15
Stone Corral, Exp. 3	Tulare	\$21,650	80
Watsonville Slough ER, Exp. 4	Santa Cruz	\$3,000	18
<b>TOTAL ACQUISITION</b>		<b>\$16,365,951</b>	<b>12,269</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Bair Island Restoration Plan	San Mateo	\$75,000	3,200
RHR, American River Parkway	Sacramento	\$260,000	163
RHR, Cache Creek, Lower Reach	Yolo	\$595,000	300
RHR, Pleasant Valley ER	Fresno	\$49,200	260
RHR, Sacramento River WA, Pine Creek Unit	Glenn	\$75,000	231
WHR (Wallace Ranch)	Yolo	\$50,000	366
WHR, (Coast Cattle Ranch)	Merced	\$23,900	286
WHR, (Wingsetter Ranch)	Stanislaus	\$49,000	143
WHR, Butte Valley WA	Siskiyou	\$135,000	3,260
WHR, Honey Lake Valley (Honey Lake Ranch)	Lassen	\$103,000	188
WHR, Honey Lake Valley (Honker Heaven)	Lassen	\$62,000	265
WHR, Honey Lake Valley (Wild Goose Club)	Lassen	\$76,000	80
WHR, Joice Island WA	Solano	\$134,600	1,800
WHR, North Grasslands (Featherston)	Merced	\$83,000	430
WHR, North Grasslands (Lone Tree Ranch)	Merced	\$40,000	215
RHR, Santa Rosa Creek	Santa Barbara	\$330,000	25
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		<b>\$2,140,700</b>	<b>11,212</b>

\* CE - Conservation Easement  
Exp. - Expansion  
ER - Ecological Reserve  
WA - Wildlife Area  
RHR - Riparian Habitat Restoration  
WHR - Wildlife Habitat Restoration

### **STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**

Funds Appropriated: \$4,000,000

Funds Allocated: \$3,378,050 \*

\* Includes \$685,845 for various plans and studies

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Hammons Ranch/Hollister Peak	San Luis Obispo	\$250,000	580
Mahoney Property Acquisition	San Mateo	\$900,000	1
Morro Bay Shores Acquisition	San Luis Obispo	\$200,000	18
San Gregorio Farms Acquisition	San Mateo	\$485,205	268
Santa Clara River Parkway	Ventura	\$14,000	6,000
UC Regents Butano Property Acquisition	San Mateo	\$180,000	80
Ventura Riparian Restoration Project	Ventura	\$14,000	6,000
<b>TOTAL ACQUISITION</b>		<b>\$2,043,205</b>	<b>12,947</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Hamilton	Marin	\$15,000	2,600
Introduced Spartina Project	9 Bay Area Counties	\$11,375	29,000
Introduced Spartina Project	9 Bay Area Counties	\$5,060	1,000
Introduced Spartina Project	9 Bay Area Counties	\$45,485	49,000
Introduced Spartina Project	9 Bay Area Counties	\$14,080	1,000
Santa Clara River Parkway	Ventura	\$14,000	6,000
Santa Clara River Parkway, Ventura River, Calleguas Creek	Ventura	\$30,000	6,000
Santa Rosa Creek Riparian Restoration	Santa Barbara	\$500,000	25
Ventura Riparian Restoration Project	Ventura	\$14,000	6,000
Watsonville Sloughs Watershed Plan	Santa Cruz	\$17,320	13,000
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		<b>\$666,320</b>	<b>113,625</b>

### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Funds Appropriated: \$4,500,000  
Funds Allocated: \$4,220,000

### Acquisition Projects (Fee or Easement)

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Total acres</u>
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park	Riverside/San Diego	\$250,000	532
Buena Vista Creek	San Diego	\$100,000	190
Calabasas Peak	Los Angeles	\$300,000	190
Cold Creek	Los Angeles	\$300,000	450
Donner Memorial SP/Shallenberger Ridge/Phase I	Placer County	\$500,000	532
Hollenbeck Canyon Preserve	San Diego	\$100,000	53
Johnson Ranch	San Luis Obispo	\$100,000	242
Lusardi Creek Preserve	San Diego	\$100,000	9
Otis Ranch	Yolo	\$122,000	517
Point Lobos State Reserve/Point Lobos Ranch	Monterey	\$1,500,000	494
Soquel Creek Headwaters	Santa Clara	\$226,000	490
Wolf Acquisition	San Luis Obispo	\$35,000	60
Woodward and Leonard Project	Los Angeles	\$195,000	80
<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS</b>		<b>\$3,828,000</b>	<b>3,839</b>

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Total acres</u>
Manila Dunes Wetland	Los Angeles	\$50,000	
San Pablo Creek	Contra Costa	\$42,000	
Zuniga Creek	Los Angeles	\$300,000	120
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		<b>\$392,000</b>	<b>120</b>



## CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Funds Appropriated: \$500,000  
Funds Expended: \$200,000

### Restoration and/or Enhancement Projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>P-117 \$</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project Design, Development and Implementation Activities	Placer/El Dorado	\$200,000	0
<b>California Tahoe Conservancy TOTALS</b>		<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>0</b>

### CONCLUSIONS

According to the information and data provided to the WCB, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 is protecting critical habitat in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Act.

With \$18,506,651 allocated from the Habitat Conservation Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Board funded many diverse projects in FY 01-02. Many of the projects funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board focused on the restoration or enhancement of critical wetland and riparian habitat with grants made through the Inland Wetland Conservation Program and the California Riparian Habitat Conservation Program. Also, existing ecological reserves and wildlife areas were expanded through a variety of means, including land donations/exchanges, conservation easements and fee acquisitions. Other projects In FY 01-02, the Wildlife Conservation Board protected, restored and enhanced thousands of acres of critical habitat for a host of fish, wildlife and plant species.

During the 2001-02 Fiscal Year the Tahoe Conservancy authorized the expenditure of \$200,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund for development, design, and implementation acquisition, restoration and habitat improvement projects. These projects are part of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program and when implemented will protect diverse and critical wetland, stream, and riparian habitat in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Wildlife habitat improvement activities involved in the projects include restoration and enhancement of habitat for a diverse variety of species including endangered, threatened, and other significant sensitive species.

The Fiscal Year 2001-02 Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) habitat purchase program continued phased acquisition efforts at Point Lobos State Reserve and funded new purchases at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Donner Memorial State Park. In addition to the State Park System projects, the DPR funded thirteen local assistance projects for a total of \$1,970,000. Neither the California Conservation Corps nor local conservation corps members were involved in the projects. None of the projects currently have management plans. Public access will be made available to all projects. It should be noted that Anza-Borrego Desert SP and Donner Memorial SP collectively include \$750,000 in Proposition

117 dollars that were appropriated to DPR in the 2000-01 fiscal year but were not encumbered until the 2001-02 fiscal year.

The California State Coastal Conservancy allocated a total of \$3,378,050 from the Habitat Conservation Fund to fund many varied projects, plans and studies. Among those projects were: The Mahoney Property Acquisition which consisted of 1.1 acres at the mouth of San Pedro Creek and the Santa Rosa Creek Riparian Restoration which restored riparian habitat along approximately one mile of stream corridor.

As previously mentioned, a total of \$26.3 million was expended from the HCF to acquire, restore and/or enhance 355,375 acres of critical habitat. In addition, it appears that urban trails and/or efforts designed to join or link critical habitat areas remains a high priority effort for many agencies receiving monies from the HCF as a greater emphasis continues to be made on providing public access and urban trails designed to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas. This is especially encouraging, as more citizens of California will have access to and benefit from our natural resources.

Collectively, the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 are protecting, restoring and enhancing critical wildlife habitat and fisheries in California. As the population of California continues to grow, it is reassuring to know that the provisions of this Act are preserving and protecting the rapidly disappearing unique and varied wildlife resources that the citizens of California have grown to cherish.